

Application No. 10/666,316
Amendment Dated: December 18, 2008
Reply to Office Action of: September 18, 2008

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 17 – 19, and 21 have been amended replacing the “adapted for” and “configured for” language with “computer executable instructions for” or removing “adapted” or “configured” where appropriate as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 11 has also been amended to include the features of claims 12 and 13. Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled and claim 14 amended to correct its dependency.

Claims 15 and 17 have also been amended to clarify the nature of the devices with which the central server device and proxy server device are configured to communicate. Such amendments are not meant to further limit the features of claims 15 and 17 but rather to more clearly specify the way in which the interfaces of the devices should be configured, namely according to the other devices with which they will communicate. These amendments have been made per suggestions provided by the Examiner in various telephone calls with Applicant's representative Alyssa Finamore.

Claims 30 to 37 are new. Claims 30 and 34 are directed to a server cache at the central server. Claims 31 and 35 are directed to computer executable instructions for maintaining a list of listeners. Claims 32 and 36 are directed to computer executable instructions for maintaining an access control list. Claims 33 and 37 are directed to computer executable instructions for the proxy server device registering itself with the central server device for updating the proxy cache when changes are made to the repository. Support for these new claims can be found in paragraphs [0026] to [0031] of the application as published.

No new subject matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10, 15, 17-19, and 21 have been objected to for using the expressions “adapted for” and “configured for”. As noted above, claims 1-3, 6-7, 10, 15, 17-19, and 21 have been amended per the Examiner's suggestion and thus these objections are believed to have been overcome.

Application No. 10/666,316
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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carter (US 6,026,474). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

As previously discussed, the present application is directed to a version control system used in software development, and to components thereof that use a proxy to handle requests from a client to a central server for obtaining copies of different versions of the same file. The central server is responsible for making all modifications and the proxy handles all requests from the client. The proxy reduces load on the central server since the server only needs to be concerned with modifications and not handling each request from the client. The client uses a version manager for making the requests, which also reduces network traffic between the proxy and the central server.

Applicant believes that the Examiner has again overlooked that the claims of the present application, including claims 17 and 18 are directed to version control, i.e. **managing multiple versions of the same file**, and believes that the Examiner has improperly equated a web caching system (Carter) with a file versioning proxy.

Although Carter utilizes the notion of a proxy server, Carter actually uses an altogether different architecture which does not involve any form of proxy intermediary at all. Rather, the clients each communicate directly with the server. Prior to requesting a resource from the server, a client will request the resource from the globally addressable data store. If the resource is not available in the data store then the client must request the resource from the server itself; the data store is not capable of doing so on the client's behalf. Therefore, not only does Carter not teach a version control system, Carter's system is arranged in an entirely different way, operates in an entirely different way, and does not provide the same capabilities as the proxy server device in claim 17. Applicant again stresses that the proxy server recited in claim 17 is for managing multiple versions of the same file and handles requests for versioned files on behalf of clients by utilizing a cache of recently accessed files and communicating with a server device in a particular way. Carter is concerned with web caching which is entirely different. Applicant believes that the Examiner has misunderstood this distinction in claim 17 and respectfully requests that should the Examiner wish to reapply references such as Carter, that he please permit a telephone interview with Applicant's representative to discuss this issue further.

Claim 18 is also directed to version control and thus is also distinguished over Carter for

Application No. 10/666,316
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the same reasons as above.

Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 both prior to the present amendment and as currently amended are clearly novel with respect to Carter for at least the reason that Carter in no way teaches a proxy device that handles requests in a version control system.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-21, and 24-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino (US 6,185,563) in view of either Ebata (US 6,513,061) or Carter. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

Hino teaches a mechanism for preventing multiple simultaneous updates to a document. This represents only a minor detail associated with the discipline of version control, namely a check-in/check-out scheme. However, Hino does not teach or suggest any other aspects of version control, such as managing a plurality of versions of the same file or being able to recover an old version at any time. Therefore, at most, Hino teaches simple document control, which cannot be considered equivalent to version control. Applicant believes that the Examiner has read too much into Hino on the basis of a mere check-in/check-out scheme, which is recited only as a dependent claim in the present application. Hino does not even teach utilizing a proxy server, let alone why one would need to incorporate such a device in managing the documents described in Hino.

As for Ebata, Applicant believes that this reference is completely irrelevant. Although Ebata utilizes a client, proxy, server arrangement, Ebata again does not deal with version control, let alone as recited in the claims. The proxy described in Ebata is of the generic web-based caching type similar to Carter and thus teaches no more than Carter.

The Examiner has again overlooked that the claims of the present application are directed to version control. It is unclear how three references, none of which even mention version control, can be considered a combination that is equivalent to what is recited in the claims of the present application. As noted above, should the Examiner wish to apply similar references that do not deal with version control, Applicant requests that a telephone interview be arranged to discuss this issue further.

Accordingly, none of the references cited teach what is recited in claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-21, and 24-29, even when combined and, as such, claims 1-3, 6-16, 19-21, and 24-29 are believed to be patentably distinguished over Hino in view of Ebata or Carter.

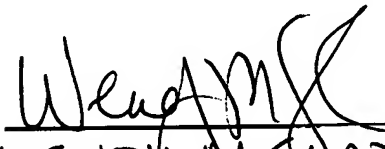
Application No. 10/666,316
Amendment Dated: December 18, 2008
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Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims, namely claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-21, and 24 to 37 are clearly and patentably distinguished over the cited references and, as such, are in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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